

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice or admission and add new claims 5-15 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in this application.

1. - 4. (canceled).

5. (new) A thermal printer comprising: a thermal head having a heating element; a platen roller urged against the thermal head; driving means for driving the heating element to print on a printing paper; a paper feeding mechanism for feeding the printing paper in a paper feeding direction by rotating the platen roller with the printing paper sandwiched between the thermal head and the platen roller; a movable mechanism for supporting one of the thermal head and the platen roller so as to be movable in a predetermined direction; and biasing means for generating a pressing force at a pressing portion between the thermal head and the platen roller; wherein the predetermined direction and the biasing direction are perpendicular to the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

6. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 5; wherein the movable mechanism comprises a rotating mechanism

that rotatably supports the thermal head about a rotating support shaft, the rotating support shaft being arranged along a plane formed by the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

7. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 5; wherein the biasing means comprises a spring that presses the thermal head toward the platen roller, a pressing direction of the spring being perpendicular to the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

8. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 7; wherein a center of an acting point of the spring is located on a plane which passes through the pressing portion between the thermal head and the platen roller and which is perpendicular to the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

9. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 5; wherein the paper feeding mechanism comprises a motor for driving the platen roller.

10. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 5; further comprising a frame for supporting the thermal head, the platen roller, the movable mechanism and the biasing means.

11. (new) A thermal printer according to claim 5; wherein the printing paper comprises a recording sheet on which printing is performed and a sheet of release paper removably adhered to the recording sheet.

12. (new) A printer comprising: a print head for performing printing; a roller urged against the print head for feeding printing paper sandwiched therebetween in a paper feeding direction; a movable mechanism for supporting one of the print head and the roller so as to be movable in a predetermined direction; and biasing means for producing a pressing force at a pressing portion between the print head and the roller; wherein the predetermined direction and the biasing direction are perpendicular to the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion to thereby reduce a force applied to the paper in a direction opposite to that of the paper feeding direction.

13. (new) A printer according to claim 12; wherein the movable mechanism comprises a rotating mechanism that rotatably supports the print head about a rotatable support shaft, the rotatable support shaft being arranged along a plane formed by the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

14. (new) A printer according to claim 12; wherein the biasing means comprises a spring that presses the print head toward the roller, a pressing direction of the spring being perpendicular to the paper feeding direction at the pressing portion.

15. (new) A printer according to claim 12; wherein the printing paper comprises a recording sheet on which printing is performed and a sheet of release paper removably adhered to the recording sheet.